
From: Judith Ausmus <JAusmus@MCN-NSN.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 28, 2016 2:50 PM
To: Coltrain, Katrina
Cc: jason-white@cherokee.org
Subject: FW: They are collecting information prior to making a final decision.
Attachments: removed.txt

Per my previous email on the American Burying Beetle...

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From: Mary McBryar [mailto:mmcbryar@enercon.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 28, 2016 2:44 PM
To: Judith Ausmus
Subject: They are collecting information prior to making a final decision.

Evaluation of a Petition To Remove the American Burying Beetle From the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife

Additional information regarding our review of this petition can be found as an appendix at <http://www.regulations.gov> under Docket No. FWS-R2-ES-2016-0011 under the Supporting Documents section.

Species and Range

American burying beetle (*Nicrophorus americanus*): Arkansas, Kansas, Massachusetts, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Dakota, and Texas

Petition History

On August 18, 2015, we received a petition dated August 18, 2015, via electronic mail from American Stewards of Liberty, the Independent Petroleum Association of America, the Texas Public Policy Foundation, and Dr. Steven W. Carothers (petitioners) requesting that the American burying beetle be delisted under the Act due to error in information such that the existence or magnitude of threats to the species, or both, do not support a conclusion that the species is at risk of extinction now or in the foreseeable future. The petition clearly identified itself as a petition and included the requisite identification information for the petitioner, as required by 50 CFR 424.14(a). This finding addresses the petition.

Finding

Based on our review of the petition and sources cited in the petition, we find that the petition presents substantial scientific or commercial information indicating that the petitioned action (delisting) may be warranted for the American burying beetle (*Nicrophorus americanus*), based on a lack of threats under any of the five listing factors. However, during our status review, we will thoroughly evaluate all potential threats to the species, including the extent to which any protections or other conservation efforts have reduced those threats. Thus, for this species, the Service requests any information relevant to whether the species falls within the definition of either an endangered species under section 3(6) of the Act or a threatened species under section 3(20), including information on the five listing factors under section 4(a)(1) and any other factors identified in this finding (see Request for Information for Status Reviews, above).

Mary A. McBryar

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